

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A passenger protection apparatus for a vehicle, said apparatus comprising:

~~a~~ at least one pair of active knee bolsters provided in an instrument panel or at a vicinity thereof, the pair of active knee bolsters provided for each of at least one passenger, and each bolster being capable of restraining a corresponding lower limb of a ~~each of the at least one passenger;~~

a detector which, at a time of a collision, can detect a direction thereof; and
a controller which, in accordance with the detection, can control the active knee bolsters independently from each other.

2. (Original) The passenger protection apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the active knee bolsters includes an operating portion for restraining the corresponding passenger lower limb and a driving portion for driving the operating portion.

3. (Original) The passenger protection apparatus of claim 2, wherein the operating portion is movable in a direction substantially parallel to the direction of a collision.

4. (Original) The passenger protection apparatus of claim 2, wherein the operating portion is movable in a hinged door manner.

5. (Original) The passenger protection apparatus of claim 2, wherein the operating portion constitutes part of a surface of the instrument panel.

6. (Original) The passenger protection apparatus of claim 1, wherein the detector comprises a vehicle acceleration sensor.

7. (Currently Amended) The passenger protection apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller appropriately and independently controls at least one of the pair of active knee bolsters in accordance with conditions of a collision.

8. (Currently Amended) The passenger protection apparatus of claim 7, wherein the collision is at least one of a frontal collision, a frontal offset collision, an oblique collision, ~~or~~ and a side impact collision ~~or the like~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A passenger protection apparatus for a vehicle, said apparatus comprising:

~~a~~ at least one pair of active knee bolsters provided in an instrument panel or at a vicinity thereof, the pair of knee bolsters provided for each of at least one passenger, and each bolster being capable of restraining a corresponding lower limb of ~~a~~ each of the at least one passenger;

another active knee bolster provided in a vehicle front side door or at a vicinity thereof, said another bolster being capable of restraining one of the lower limbs;

yet another active knee bolster provided in a center console or at a vicinity thereof, said yet another bolster being capable of restraining the other of the lower limbs;

a detector which, at a time of a collision, can detect a direction thereof; and

a controller which, in accordance with the detection, can control the active knee bolsters independently from one another.

10. (Original) The passenger protection apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of the active knee bolsters includes an operating portion for restraining the corresponding passenger lower limb and a driving portion for driving the operating portion.

11. (Original) The passenger protection apparatus of claim 9, wherein the controller appropriately and independently controls at least one of the active knee bolsters in accordance with conditions of a collision.

12. (Currently Amended) The passenger protection apparatus of claim 11, wherein the collision is at least one of a frontal collision, a frontal offset collision, an oblique collision, ~~or~~ and a side impact collision ~~or the like~~.